



“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.” (Mark 1:14–20, NIV - Anglicised)

Three levels in Jewish education

1. Bet Safar (6-10 year olds)

Memorised the Torah - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy!!!

2. Bet Talmud (10-14 year olds)

Memorise - rest of the OT. Not uncommon - 14 yr old to know whole of Old Testament. They also learned to answer questions by asking questions.

“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.” (Luke 2:46–47, NIV)

3. Bet Midrash (14+)

Only best of best continued and followed a Rabbi who had his own interpretation on Torah. It was called his **“yoke”**

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
(Matthew 11:29–30, NIV)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.” (Matthew 5:17, NIV).

The disciples were fishermen therefore they had not made it through - they weren't good enough.

But Jesus says - “Come and follow me”You've got potential “You're hired!!!”

Those who aren't his disciples....

Jesus in His love for us went even further to ensure, we could not only be hired, but freed and His friends.

"Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything." (Ephesians 2:13, The Message)

Those who are his disciples....

Blessing or Challenge?

"May you be covered by the dust on your Rabbi's sandals"
How close are you to Jesus' every step?

Questions to Reflect on....

What are some of the obstacles people face today when deciding to follow Jesus?

Are we so absorbed in mending our nets that we don't hear the call or we hear it and brush it aside as something unusual, irrational or too demanding?

The disciples had to make a decision between their family, jobs or following Jesus. Reflect on any times when you had to make a tough choice to step out in faith and follow Jesus.

Jesus didn't go to the synagogues and call the most devout Jewish leaders to follow him. He called men with no special training but who were willing.

What does this say about what Jesus requires to be His follower?

The disciples leave their nets and families to follow Christ. In what ways do you follow Jesus in your everyday routine?

And what are some things you need to walk away from to follow him more closely?

WORD SEARCH

T J A Y B L Y F A A F
A H L C A S T I N G O
R F T O B F Z S D H L
F S D M O A E H R M L
N A N E A T B E E N O
E B R O T H E R W Y W
L E F T C E D M Y S E
D B L B H R E E L D J
G A L I L E E N I E E
O F I S H E R S D L S
N E C A L L E D G A U
E R Y W T B J H L Y S

ANDREW
BESIDE
BOAT
BROTHER
CALLED
CASTING
COME
DELAY
FARTHER
FATHER
FISHERMEN
FISHERS
FOLLOW
GALILEE
GONE
JESUS
LEFT
ZEBEDEE